

Serial No. 09/735,715
Attorney Docket No. 68156755.5007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks/arguments. Claims 1-71 were originally filed with the present Application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 43 have been amended, and claims 22-42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-21 and 43-71, as amended, are pending in the present Application. Moreover, no new matter has been added.

I. OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to two paragraphs of the specification for containing misspelled words therein. In response, Applicants have amended the appropriate paragraphs of the specification to correct these inadvertent errors and thank the Examiner for the diligence used in reviewing the specification.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-33, 35-37 and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,477,580 to Bowman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,559 to White, *et al.* In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 8, 12, 34, 38, and 43-71 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Bowman in view of White, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,692 to Miloushev. In the present Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 22-42, without prejudice or disclaimer, and have amended claims 1 and 43.

In response to the above rejections, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1 and 43, as amended, are not obvious in view of the cited combination of references.

Specifically, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 43 to more clearly recite that

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the tagged data object for storing data is a *universal* tagged data object that is platform independent, hardware architecture independent, and language independent. In addition, the universal tagged data object holds data to provide universal access to manipulation and aggregation of the tagged data. Moreover, the claims now recite packing the tagged data by converting the tagged data into a binary representation of the tagged data that is capable of being transferred from one computer environment to another computer environment for processing without any intermediate format conversions. This transfer is based on the platform independence, hardware architecture independence and language independence of the universal tagged data object, and thus the binary representation of the data itself. As such, virtually any type of program, hardware, etc. (e.g., Java-based or XML-based equipment) may directly access and process the data in its binary representation without the need to convert it to or from its native format. Thus, processing steps are eliminated, even when moving between two computer environments employing the same hardware/software.

The Examiner admits that Bowman does not disclose the tagged data object being a universal data container that is platform and architecture independent. However, the Examiner goes on to allege that the mere use of a Java byte code transmission (the "Virtual Machine" in Col. 99, lines 7-40) sufficiently discloses the architecture and platform independence of the present methods. Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references do not disclose each and every element of the amended claims. Specifically, the "Virtual Machine" providing the Java byte code cited by the Examiner is not configured to create a universal tagged data object, encapsulating a data element into the object to provide universal access to manipulation and aggregation of the tagged data, and then packing the tagged data by converting into a binary representation capable of accessing and processing from one computer environment to another.

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Instead, the "Virtual Machine" cited by the Examiner is stated to be used simply for running applications (line 22), and interpreting application code during execution (lines 38-39). As such, there is nothing in the cited passage that provides creating, encapsulating, and packing in the specific manner and format provided by the amended claims. Moreover, the "Virtual Machine" appears to "support" platform independence, but does not seemingly address architecture or language independence from one computing environment to another.

Additionally, the Examiner has cited Miloushev for the use of software comprising components for modeling with an emphasis on language-independent constructs. Even without specifically addressing whether Miloushev discloses modeling in language-independent constructs, Miloushev does not provide the architecture and platform independence recited in the pending claims, as amended. As discussed above, the "Virtual Machine" of Bowman does not disclose platform-, language-, and architecture-independent creating, encapsulating, and packing in the specific manner provided in the amended claims. Moreover, Miloushev does not cure these deficiencies in Bowman since Miloushev does not provide a method incorporating architecture and platform independence, in addition to any possible language independence. Thus, Applicants believe claims 1-21 and 43-71, as amended, are not obvious in view of the cited references, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §103(a) rejection with respect to the pending claims.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-21 and 43-71 are in condition for allowance, and request a Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney of Record if such would expedite the prosecution of the

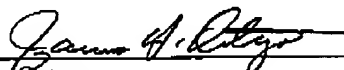
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present Application. Applicants have requested a one month extension for filing the present Amendment, and have provided the appropriate fee. However, if the Commissioner determines that additional fees are due, or an overcharge has occurred, please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 13-0480, referencing the Attorney Docket Number specified herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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